

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via the South Carolina Health Alert Network
September 29, 2005, 5:00 PM EDT

Influenza Surveillance for the 2005 –2006 Influenza Season

This advisory contains information on influenza surveillance, the rapid antigen testing weekly worksheet, and influenza resource links.

Background Information

Influenza surveillance information and diagnostic testing can aid clinical judgment and help guide treatment decisions. The accuracy of clinical diagnosis of influenza on the basis of symptoms alone is limited because symptoms from illness caused by other pathogens can overlap considerably with influenza. Influenza surveillance by state and local health departments and CDC can provide information regarding the presence of influenza viruses in the community. Surveillance can also identify the predominant circulating types, subtypes, and strains of influenza.

Despite the availability of rapid diagnostic tests, collecting clinical specimens for viral culture is critical, because only culture isolates can provide specific information regarding circulating influenza subtypes and strains. This information is needed to compare current circulating influenza strains with vaccine strains, to guide decisions regarding influenza treatment and chemoprophylaxis, and to formulate vaccine for the coming year. Virus isolates also are needed to monitor the emergence of antiviral resistance and the emergence of novel influenza A subtypes that might pose a pandemic threat.

Reporting of Positive Rapid Influenza Tests

For the 2005-2006 influenza season DHEC is **NOT** requiring named reporting of positive rapid influenza test results. Just as last year's influenza season, only faxed or emailed weekly reports at the end of every week to the local health department of:

- The reporting week
- Practice name
- The county
- Number of positive rapid influenza tests by facility/practice, and
- Type of influenza being identified (influenza A, influenza B, A/B) during the reporting period, are required to be reported.

To assist facilities/practices in reporting, DHEC is providing the following worksheet for use in compiling weekly counts prior to weekly submission. This worksheet is offered as an alternative to submitting named reporting via the 2005 SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Disease Reporting Cards (DHEC 1129 cards) when reporting positive influenza rapid test results.

- This criterion of summary numbers is only to be used for reporting of positive rapid influenza tests and does not take the place of reporting positive influenza viral culture results, which are still reportable using the DHEC 1129 cards.

Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths is Now a Nationally Notifiable Disease Condition

- **Any** unusual cluster of respiratory illness or laboratory-confirmed influenza virus infection among children up to 17 years of age are required to be reported to your local health department (see below for contact numbers) and may require additional investigation.
- **Any** influenza-associated pediatric death is urgently reportable (within 24 hours) by phone to your local health department (see below for contact numbers) and may require additional investigation and collection of clinical information to evaluate cause of death.

South Carolina Influenza Surveillance for the 2005-2006 season

It is important to remember that influenza surveillance in South Carolina can answer the questions of where, when, and what influenza viruses are circulating. It also can be used to determine if influenza activity is increasing or decreasing, but cannot be used to ascertain how many people have become ill with influenza during the influenza season. South Carolina influenza activity and surveillance is available on the DHEC influenza website.

For the coming season, influenza surveillance in South Carolina will consist of four components:

Influenza Culture Laboratory Surveillance

Influenza culture laboratory surveillance will be the same as last year. The DHEC Bureau of Labs will continue to provide influenza culture testing kits to providers and laboratories already enrolled in the laboratory surveillance network. If you would like to participate in the influenza culture laboratory surveillance network, please contact Dr. Jennifer Meredith in the Bureau of Labs, at 803-896-0870.

Participation in the Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Sentinel Providers Network

Volunteer healthcare providers in South Carolina report the total number of patients seen and the number of those patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) by age group on a weekly basis. ILI cases are counted if there is no other known cause for the illness. No influenza culture is required for counting cases of ILI. For this system, ILI is defined as fever (temperature of >100°F) plus either a cough or a sore throat. Providers interested in participating in this voluntary program can obtain additional information by contacting their local health department (see below for contact numbers).

Positive rapid influenza test results

This is the same as last year's SC influenza rapid test reporting requirements. Positive rapid antigen test results may be reported by summary numbers of positive rapid test results and type of influenza (A, B or A/B) that the test detects. No specific patient information is needed. One may still use 1129 cards to report summary numbers of positive rapid tests OR use a weekly summary worksheet provided by your local health department. These weekly summary sheets may be faxed or emailed at the end of every week to your local health department. Please note, positive rapid antigen test by summary number does not replace the mandatory reporting of positive influenza viral cultures, by name with other personally identified information on 1129 cards to DHEC. Last year providers had some confusion about reporting positive cultures to DHEC if the specimen was process at a DHEC lab. Please continue to report positive influenza culture tests to your local health department via 1129 cards or phone, even if the specimen was processed at a DHEC lab. DHEC labs do not report positive culture specimens to local health departments. For positive rapid antigen summary worksheets please contact your local health department.

Enhanced Avian Influenza Surveillance

The CDC and SC DHEC continue to encourage 'enhanced' surveillance for patients with influenza like illnesses (ILI) who are at increased risk for avian influenza A. The medical community needs to maintain vigilance obtaining a travel history in patients with ILI symptoms and consider the following actions:

- 1) Consistently obtain international travel history and other exposure risk information for persons with the following symptoms and circumstances:
 - a. fever of >38C
 - b. one of more of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath
 - c. history of contact with poultry, suspected or known human case in an H5N1 affected country.
- 2) Obtain rapid diagnostic laboratory tests for patients who are at risk for avian influenza
- 3) Rapidly implement infection control measures, as listed on CDC website.
- 4) Immediately report the suspected case to the local health department for consultation and assistance in obtaining the appropriate testing. Please note that all suspected cases of human avian influenza must be reported to the local health department, which then consults with CDC.

For more detailed information on Enhanced Avian Influenza A surveillance, please view the DHEC Health Advisory, August 10, 2005, on the Health Alert Network link at:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/>

Additional information

For information about influenza and surveillance activities in South Carolina, please visit:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm>

For national and international information about influenza and steps to protect individuals and families, visit both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) and the World Health Organization (<http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/>) websites for the latest information.

CDC Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings:

- www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm

CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals:

- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/ISOLAT/Isolat.htm

DHEC Influenza Surveillance Website:

- <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm>

Antiviral Drugs for Prophylaxis and Treatment of Influenza

- At this time, there are no significant changes in CDC recommendations for the use of antivirals for prophylaxis and treatment of influenza. The latest guidance is published in the MMWR "Prevention and Control of Influenza", July 29, 2005, Vol 54, RR-8. This document may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5408a1.htm>.

Weekly worksheet for the reporting of positive rapid influenza test results



Guidance for use of this worksheet:

1. This does not take the place of reporting positive influenza viral culture results, which are still reportable using the DHEC 1129 Cards.
2. Fax or email this information **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK** to the District-specific Health Department fax/phone/addresses (see below). These contact numbers are also available at: http://www.dhec.sc.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf
3. This worksheet is offered as an alternative to submitting patient-specific 2005 SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Disease Reporting Cards (DHEC 1129 cards) when reporting Influenza, positive rapid test results.
4. Facilities using this worksheet are required to enter the:
 - a. Reporting period (week beginning on Sunday),
 - b. Facility/Practice name,
 - c. County in which the facility/practice resides, and
 - d. Influenza type being identified (e.g. Influenza A, Influenza B, Influenza A/B, or unknown).
5. If methodologies change such that a different influenza type is being identified during the influenza season, please update the "type of influenza being identified" section of this worksheet prior to weekly submission.

For the week beginning _____ (Sunday – Saturday)

Reporting Facility/Practice: _____

County: _____

Type of influenza (A, B, A or B, or unknown) being identified via test methodology: _____

	Positive for Influenza A	Positive for Influenza B	Positive for Influenza A or B
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
<u>Weekly Totals</u>			

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of positive rapid influenza tests is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.net/hs/diseasecont/disease.htm>.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology/Disease Report Office in the appropriate county listed below.

Region 1

(Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

P.O. Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

(Greenville, Pickens)

P.O. Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

Region 3

(Chester, Lancaster, York)

P.O. Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or
1-(888)-739-0748

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Region 4

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

P.O. Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 5 (cont.)

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

P.O. Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Region 6

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: 843-746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

P.O. Box 229
219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902